



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,134	01/25/2001	Spencer A. Rathus	660-015	8417

7590 06/20/2002  
Ward & Olivo  
382 Springfield Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901

EXAMINER

LE, UYEN CHAU N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2876

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/769,134

Applicant(s)

RATHUS ET AL.

Examiner

Uyen-Chau N. Le

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 168-261 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 168-261 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Prelim. Amdt/Amendment*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed 25 January 2001.

### *Claim Objections*

2. Claims 183 and 185 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claim 183, line 2: Substitute "ISDN" with -- integrated service digital network (ISDN) --.

Re claim 185, line 2: Substitute "CATV" with -- cable television (CATV) --.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting*

3. Claims 168-261 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 168-221 and 224-263 of copending Application No. 09/769,149 (hereinafter '149).

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because in claims 168-261 of the instant application, Applicants claim a system for **displaying programming** to a user, the system comprising "a **printed advertisement** having at least one **machine recognizable feature**", "a **feature recognition unit** having associated therewith a **means for recognizing** said feature and a **means for transmitting a coded signal** in response to the recognition of said feature", "an **intelligent controller** having associated therewith a **means for accessing** said programming material in response to receiving said coded signal", ... and "a **display unit** for presenting said programming material". The method of providing a user access to programming

Art Unit: 2876

material, comprising the steps of “**imprinting a machine recognizable feature**”, “**scanning said machine recognizable feature**”, “**transmitting data** associated with said machine recognizable feature”. The ‘149 patent discloses a system for **displaying programming** to a user, the system comprising “a **printed stationery** having at least one **machine recognizable feature**”, “a **feature recognition unit** having associated therewith a **means for recognizing** said feature and a **means for transmitting a coded signal** in response to the recognition of said feature”, “an **intelligent controller** having associated therewith a **means for accessing** said programming material in response to receiving said coded signal”, ... and “a **display unit** for presenting said programming material”. The method of providing a user access to programming material, comprising the steps of “**imprinting a machine recognizable feature**”, “**scanning said machine recognizable feature**”, “**transmitting data** associated with said machine recognizable feature”. Although the scope of claims 168-261 of the present application and claims 168-221, 224-263 of ‘149 application are almost identical, the difference between the present claimed invention and the ‘149 application is that the present claimed invention is a narrower recitation of the ‘149 application (e.g., the present claimed invention recites “a **printed advertisement-** having at least one machine recognizable feature, etc.” whereby the ‘149 application recites “a **printed stationary** having at least one machine recognizable feature, etc.”). Thus, with respect to above discussions, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teaching of claims 168-221, 224-263 of ‘149 application as a general teaching for having a system for **displaying programming** to a user with the same functions as claimed by the present application. The instant claims obviously encompass the patented claims and differ only in terminology. To the extent that the instant claim is broaden and therefore generic to the patented claims [species], In re Goodman 29 USPQ 2d 2010 CAFC 1993,

Art Unit: 2876

states that a generic claim cannot be issued without a terminal disclaimer, if a species claim has been previously been patented.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 168-182, 184, 186-196, 198-201, 203-204, 206, 208-237, 239-245, 247- 252, 254, 256-261 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brick et al (US 6,269,342) in view of Rhoads (US 6,311,214).

Re claims 168-182, 184, 186-196, 198-201, 203-204, 206, 208-237, 239-245, 247- 252, 254, 256-261: Brick et al discloses a system for displaying programming to a user, the system comprising

Art Unit: 2876

printed stationery having at least one machine recognizable feature 342 (fig. 10); a feature recognition unit 80 (fig. 9) having a means 356 (fig. 10) for recognizing the feature 342 and a means [338A, 358A] (fig. 10) for transmitting a coded signal in response to the recognition of the feature 342; an intelligent controller 334 (fig. 10) having a means for accessing the programming material in response to receiving the coded signal; and a display unit 362 (fig. 10) for presenting the programming material (see figs. 9 and 10; col. 9, line 1 through col. 12, line 67; and col. 13, lines 35+).

Brick et al fails to teach or fairly suggest that the printed stationery is a printed advertisement and the data link comprising image/video/sound data link and the machine-readable feature comprises a digital watermark.

Rhoads teaches the above limitation with the printed stationery is a printed advertisement and the data link comprising image/video/sound data link (col. 22, lines 1+); and the machine-readable feature comprises a digital watermark (col. 13, lines 5-40); also see figs. 1-2 and col.2, line 64 through col. 4, line 46; col. 8, line 8 through col. 10, line 59; col. 14, line 55 through col. 15, line 13; col. 18, lines 30+; col. 19, line 65 through col. 20, line 49; col. 22, lines 1+; col. 34, lines 5+; col. 36, lines 46+.

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Rhoads into the teachings of Brick et al in order to provide Brick et al with the latest technology, providing the user/operator with a clearer information data displayed. Furthermore, such modification would have provided the user/operator flexibility in selecting a desired format of previewing data. Moreover, such modification would provide Brick et al with a capability to print a coupon for an advertising program, and thus providing a more user-friendly system (i.e., providing the consumer a convenient way of saving money, thus attracting people to shop; business retailers therefore appreciated it because they sell more). Accordingly, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Brick et al for aesthetic purpose (i.e., digital

Art Unit: 2876

watermark machine-readable feature), well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient

7. Claims 183, 185, 197, 202, 205, 207, 238, 246 and 255 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brick et al as modified by Rhoads as applied to claim 168 above, and further in view of Reber et al (US 5,995,105). The teachings of Brick et al as modified by Rhoads have been discussed above.

Re claims 183, 185, 197, 202, 205, 207, 238, 246 and 255: Brick et al/Rhoads have been discussed above but fails to teach or fairly suggest that the machine-readable feature is invisible; the data link comprising an integrated service digital network, a cable television line; and the display having a pager.

Reber et al teaches the above limitation with an invisible machine-readable barcode (col. 4, lines 41-45); the data link comprising an ISDN, cable television system (col. 5, lines 14+ and col. 9, lines 20+); and the system having a two-way pagers (col. 3, lines 66+).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Reber et al into the teachings of Brick et al/Rhoads in order to provide Brick et al/Rhoads with the latest technology for a more accurate and faster system due to the benefit of ISDN networking line. Furthermore, such modification would have provided Brick et al/Rhoads with a more secure system via invisible machine-readable feature. Moreover, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught by Brick et al/Rhoads with a more user-friendly system due to the system's properties (i.e., faster, more accuracy and more secure), well within the ordinary skill in the art, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Art Unit: 2876

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Jones (US 5,500,681); Hewitt et al (US 5,578,797); Off et al (US 4,910,672); May (US 4,839,507); Mindrum et al (US 4,723,212); DeLuca et al (US 6,313,732 B1); Parry (US 6,148,331); Jones et al (US 5,978,013); DeLuca et al (US 5,870,030); Off et al (US 5,612,868); Holman (US 5,287,181); Off et al (US 5,173,851); and Hunt (US 5,111,196) are cited as of interest and illustrate a similar structure to a method and apparatus for accessing electronic data via a familiar printed medium.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 703-306-5588. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:00-1:30 and Sat 6:00-11:00 and email is [uyen-chau.le@uspto.gov](mailto:uyen-chau.le@uspto.gov).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL G LEE can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

*Uyen-Chau N. Le*

June 17, 2002



THIEN M. LE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER